

**Maricopa County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Environmental Services
1001 North Central Avenue, 5th Fl Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
3:00 p.m.
July 28, 2003**

Members Present:

Audrey Adamic
William C. Brainard, M.D.
Don Cassano
Susanne Cook
Brian Spicker
Stephen West, M.D.
Pam Wight
Maricopa County Supervisor Max Wilson, District 4

Members Absent

Steven G. Nelson, M.D.
Patrick Van Zanen

Ex Officio: Jonathan B. Weisbuch, M.D., M.P.H.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.; six members were present.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of the June 23, 2003 Board of Health Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Cassano made the motion to approve the June 23, 2003 Board of Health Meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Adamic seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by six votes.

Election of Board of Health Officers:

Ms. Cook made the motion to nominate Ms. Adamic as Member at Large to serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Health; Mr. Cassano seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by six votes.

Supervisor Wilson made the motion to nominate Dr. Brainard as Physician Representative to serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Health with Dr. West seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously by six votes.

The Board of Health members serving on the Executive Committee for the 2003/2004 fiscal year are: Ms. Wight, Ms. Cook, Ms. Adamic, and Dr. Brainard.

The motion was made to nominate Ms. Cook as Vice President of the Finance Committee by Ms. Adamic and seconded by Dr. West. The motion passed unanimously by six votes.

The motion was made to nominate Ms. Wight as President of the Board of Health by Ms. Cook and seconded by Ms. Adamic. The motion passed unanimously by six votes.

2003/2004 Meeting Dates – Selection of Annual Board of Health Retreat Date:

The monthly Board of Health meetings will continue on the fourth Monday of each month with the exception of August and December when the Board of Health does not meet. The Annual Board of Health Retreat will be held on Friday, October 31, 2003.

Fee Waivers:

A motion was made by Mr. Spicker to approve the two fee waivers for: Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc. and Phoenix Day. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cook and passed unanimously by seven votes.

Ms. Cullison, President, Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc. was present at the Board of Health meeting to discuss her request for a refund of \$960.00. Ms. Cullison explained that this was the first event that Ms. Cullison was aware that a Temporary Food Establishment License is required by Maricopa County. Ms. Cullison shared her explanation that the equitable way to handle this type of charity event would be to charge a flat fee to cover licensing for participants for the entire event instead of \$60.00 per participating chef. Ms. Cullison's fee waiver was approved for her organization only for \$60.00. The event is designed to feature specialties served by a large number of chefs with all of the proceeds going to charity. Several board members expressed their surprise at Ms. Cullison's statement that she had not paid fees for four years.

Mr. Cassano made a motion for Mr. Brown to consider a fee reduction for short-term events or multiple participants in the upcoming fee study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spicker and passed unanimously by eight votes.

Mr. Brown, Director, Environmental Services, suggested asking the resort participating in the event to allow the chefs to use the kitchen at the resort; which does not require a license. Another suggestion would be to encourage all participants to purchase a two-year catering license for \$380.00 which would supercede the need for a Temporary License. Another thought would be to find a sponsor to cover the fees for the function.

Ms. Wight, President, Maricopa County Board of Health, said Temporary Food Establishment License fees are required to ensure the safety of the attendees.

The Board of Health serves in an advisory board capacity and does not have the authority to over ride the fee policy in place by Maricopa County. The Board of Health can make a recommendation as requested by Mr. Cassano.

Epidemic Syphilis Policy:

Dr. Weisbuch, Director, Department of Public Health, continued the discussion started at the Board of Health meeting last month. The syphilis epidemic is abating slightly but still requires aggressive public health activity. Dr. Weisbuch favors a joint approach through the judicial system requiring all who are arrested for prostitution to be screened for syphilis prior to their discharge from the County jail. Currently, syphilis screening is being performed on approximately 60% of all those arrested for prostitution with a positive yield of approximately 10%. With a Board of Health order in place all arrested for prostitution will undergo syphilis screening before release. Dr. Weisbuch will update the Board of Health in September as to the procedure that will be followed by the jail to carry out this program.

Congenital Syphilis Plan:

Since January of this year 14 cases of congenital syphilis and four deaths from syphilis have been reported in Maricopa County. State law requires syphilis screening during the first trimester of pregnancy. For women who have not been tested in the first trimester, the law requires a test for syphilis be conducted on the newborn (cord blood) at the time of delivery. In Maricopa County 50,000 deliveries occur annually, an estimated 10% of which receive neither a test for syphilis during pregnancy or upon delivery. It is this population which yields the majority of the congenital syphilis cases. A Board of Health Order requiring testing on all newborns for 18 months should stop the epidemic.

Dr. Weisbuch recommends that the Board of Health approve both recommendations, the first to help reduce syphilis in Maricopa County; the second to end the congenital syphilis epidemic.

A motion requesting the Department of Public Health set in process the changes necessary to modify existing controls within the court system and through the hospitals/physician network to authorize additional syphilis screening for a 12 to 18 month period to control the syphilis epidemic was made by Mr. Cassano. Dr. Brainard seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by eight votes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Chronic Disease Overview:

Mr. Garcia, Acting Director, Chronic Disease and Tobacco Control, welcomed and introduced staff members present today to provide an overview of services to the members of the Board of Health. Ms. Ettrick, Health Educator, Injury Prevention Program, Department of Public Health, explained many exciting and innovative programs lead the way to promote education to the community. The Play Program reaches many more individuals than originally anticipated and is an extremely successful program promoting lifetime activity for youth.

The Women's Wellness Program is another highly successful 12 week program providing services in the communities at work sites, community centers, and churches. The Wellness Program highlights creative approaches to include activity and nutritionally sound methods for everyday living. Reworking methods in place for meals and streamlining the meals from a nutritional aspect are covered through this program.

Ms. Beedle, Manager, Tobacco Use Prevention Program, Department of Public Health, explained the Tobacco Use Prevention Program in place provides training through a collaborative approach for cessation services. Everyday the number of smoke free towns in Arizona increases. Tempe, Guadalupe, Surprise, Gilbert, Mesa, Goodyear, and Litchfield Park, are just a few of the towns recently involved in smoke free ordinances.

Ms. Bueno, Prevention Team Leader, Tobacco Use Prevention Program, Department of Public Health, explained a contract is in place within schools for prevention services with an emphasis on tobacco. The goal is to target students between fourth and eighth grade through health fairs and school presentations about the harmful effects of tobacco.

Ms. Thomas, Community Promotions Team Leader, Tobacco Use Prevention Program, Department of Public Health, promotes the programs already in existence to the community by the Chronic Disease & Tobacco Control Division to the community. The website is utilized as a major source for promotion of services to the community.

Ms. Weare, Cessation Team Leader, Tobacco Use Prevention Program, Department of Public Health, said cessation classes can be set up anywhere in the community. The classes are seven weeks long with an outreach format to healthcare professionals in the community. The program works with large employers who provide incentives to their employees to participate in the cessation classes. Across the board use for tobacco has dropped from 25% four years ago to 19% at present. We currently have 21 classes within the community with 10 to 15 individuals participating at each class.

Arizona Drinking Water:

Mr. Power, Manager of Water and Waste Management, Environmental Services, and Mr. Kohlman, Program Manager, Drinking Water/Solid Waste Programs, Environmental Services, provided an overview of the Department's Drinking Water program. Maricopa County has over 250 public water systems and 117 community water systems. All water systems are tested against water standards under state and federal guidelines every three years. Temperature testing is not a part of the state and federal regulations. Through the investigation process over the last few months it was noted that Maricopa County has a very high ground water temperature which might play a role for potential growth toward amoebic infection. What is new to the public water system is a rare type of amoebic infection which is not contagious.

Most systems in the United States are set up on a self reporting cycle for inspections. It is very important to document every change or occurrence related to a water system. If a problem surfaces documentation for all changes will support each circumstance for the water system. The Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of determining the number of wells in the United States, how the wells were drilled, the depth and temperature of the wells, the ph of the well, and evidence of existing bacteria problems in wells. The University of Arizona has special funding to perform a similar study.

A study is also underway regarding the level of arsenic in the United States drinking water. It was determined that other countries in the world have set a lower allowable standard level for arsenic in drinking water than the United States.

Current Events Summary:

Dr. Weisbuch reported on the tuberculosis outbreak in three day care centers being investigated by the department. Approximately 300 children and 80 staff members are to be evaluated pushing the resources of the department to the limit. Those identified to have been infected (those with a positive PPD) will be evaluated for active disease and appropriately treated.

Call to the Public:

No one was present to respond.

Announcements:

The July 28, 2003 Board of Health meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Pam Wight, President

Jonathan B. Weisbuch, M.D., Secretary

The minutes were transcribed and edited by Susan Attiah.